REMARKS

Claims 1 to 17 are pending in the application.

The purpose of this amendment is to place the application headings in appropriate U.S. form, place the claims in appropriate U.S. form and delete the multiple dependent claim in this application, and thereby eliminate excessive claim fees. Such amendments are formal in nature and no new matter is added by any of the above amendments. Entry of this amendment and early examination of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Tadashi YANO et al.

November 24, 2003

(Date)

By: John D. SIMMONS

Registration No. 52,225

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street - Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086

Telephone: (215) 965-1200 Direct Dial: (215) 965-1268 Facsimile: (215) 965-1210

E-Mail: jsimmons@akingump.com

JDS:srn Enclosures